THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) One complaint was received during the year 1993 that P.G.I. Blood Bank Chandigarh issued untested blood to road accident patients after getting the consent from the relatives of the patients. No other complaint has been received against any Government Blood Bank.

(b) The Drug and Cosmetics Rules provide mandatory testing of blood for all blood transmissible diseases. For ensuring that good quality blood is supplied to all Government blood banks are being moderanised through provision of Blood Bank equipment. For testing of blood for HIV 150 Zonal Blood Testing Centres have been set up all over the country with linkages provided to blood banks located in the Government, private and voluntary sector. Rapid test kits are provided to District Level Blood Banks.

Allotment of Official Flats of IRCS

2346. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while many of the staff members of the IRCS Headquarters are in wait list for many years in respect of allotment of official flats, three large flats of the IRCS are lying vacant for over three years without care and unkept and consequently the flats are badly damaged and there has been substantial revenue loss;

(b) if so, whether any responsibility has been fixed for this negligence; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) The Indian Red Cross Society have reported that three vacant flats have since been alloted to the eligible officers of the Society as per House Allotment Rules.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Financing Institutes for the Cultivation of Medicinal Plant

2347. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are implementing a scheme for the cultivation of medicinal plants by financing Government and autonomous institutions in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what kind of medicinal plants are selected and cultivated under this scheme; and

(d) the number of Government and autonomous institutions in Maharashtra which are being financed under this scheme, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This Ministry is implementing a scheme viz., 'Central Scheme for Development & Cultivation of Medicinal Plants' w.e.f. 1990-91. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to Government/Semi-Government Organisations under Central/State/UT Governments including Autonomous Bodies/Statutory Organisations etc. (directly controlled by the Government). The eligible institutions should have basic infrastructure including minimum five acres of cultivable land; technical know-how and preferably some experience in cultivation of medicinal plants. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided for components like fencing/ land shaping; irrigation facilities; equipments/shed and miscellaneous expenditure.

(c) Scarce and identified species of medicinal plants which are in great demand but are short in supply, required for preparation of drugs of Indian System

of Medicines & Homoeopathy, are selected and cultivated under this Scheme.

(d) Four Institutions from Maharashtra have been financed under this scheme.

During the financial year 1990-91

1. Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri ....Rs. 5.00 lakh

During the financial year 1992-93

2. Govt. Ayurveda & Unani Pharmacy, Nanded ....Rs. 5.00 lakh

During the financial year 1993-94

3. Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola ....Rs. 7.25 lakh

4. Punjabrao Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola ....Rs. 5.60 lakh

Effect of DDT on Male Fertility

2348. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the 'Statesman' of July 6, 1995 under the caption, "DDT affects male fertility";

(b) if so, what are the facts and details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have made any enquiry about the adverse effect of DDT used to control mosquitoes on male fertility; if so, what are the details in this regard;

(d) to what extent the use of DDT to save the foodgrains from insects is injurious to the health of the public; and

(e) what preventive steps Government have taken in this regard to save the lives of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no scientific finding to support this statement.

(d) and (e) According to Central Government instructions, insecticides supplied under the National Malaria Eradication Programme are to be used by the State Governments for spraying in endemic areas; sparying operations are to be restricted to the transmission seasons only and to be conducted under close supervision. Use of DDT has been banned in agriculture and there is a ceiling on the use of insecticibes for public health requirement.

Vacancies in AIIMS

2349. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies in the faculty of AIIMS to be filled in;

(b) the details of each vacancy and also the date on which vacancy occurred;

(c) what steps are being taken to fill up each vacancy; and

(d) whether Government are aware of any problem in the functioning of AIIMS, if so, the details thereof and action taken to overcome the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) There are 87 vacancies in the faculty of AIIMS.

(b) As per statement enclosed. (*see* below)

(c) Action is under process to select suitable candidates for the posts of Professor in various disciplines. The matter of reservation in appointment to the post of Assistant Professor is sub-judice.

(d) No, Sir.